

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of rapidly depressurizing a mold for curing retreaded or new tires, the mold having an upper platen, a lower platen, and a central rim for sealing the tire at the beads, the central rim being open to atmospheric pressure at the radially inner surfaces, the radially outer surfaces in combination with the upper platen and lower platen forming a toroidal pressure chamber for curing the tire; the method comprising the steps of:

providing a frangible member ~~attached~~ attached and open to the toroidal pressure chamber through an opening in the central rim; and opening the frangible member to the atmosphere pressure P_0 when the chamber pressure ~~reached~~ reaches a predetermined pressure P_1 , P_1 being greater than the tire curing pressure P_c .

2. (original) The method of rapidly depressurizing a mold for curing retread or new tires of claim 1 wherein the step of opening the frangible member includes the step of rupturing a portion of the frangible member at the predetermined pressure P_1 .

3. (currently amended) The method of rapidly depressurizing a mold for curing retread or new tires of claim 1 further comprises the step of directing the chamber flow exhaust orthogonal relative to the attachment to the rim.

4. (currently amended) An improved mold for curing retreaded or new tires, the mold having

an upper platen

a lower platen

a central rim, the central rim having a radially inner surface open to atmospheric pressure and an exterior surface in combination with the upper platen and lower platen forming toroidal pressure chamber for curing a tire; the improved mold being characterized by a frangible member being attached to an opening in the central rim and being connected on a radially inner surface of the rim, the frangible member opens to atmospheric pressure P_0 when the chamber pressure reaches a predetermined pressure P_1 , P_1 being greater than the tire curing pressure P_c .~~[[.]]~~

5. (currently amended) The improved mold of claim 4 wherein the frangible member has a rupture element breakable at ~~[[a]]~~ the predetermined pressure P_1 .

6. (original) The improved mold of claim 4 wherein the mold is for large off-road tires.

7. (original) The improved mold of claim 4 wherein the frangible member opens at predetermined pressures in the 200 to 250 p.s.i. range.

8. (original) The improved mold of claim 4 wherein the frangible member has an exhaust flow diverter for redirecting the flow 90° relative to the path exiting the rim.

9. (currently amended) The improved mold of claim 4 wherein all exhaust flows ~~[[and]]~~ are centrally directed initially within the central rim.